GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4022
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2005
US RESERVATION ON INDO- IRAN GAS PIPELINE
Badiga Shri Ramakrishna;Joshi Shri Pralhad Venkatesh;Nedurumalli Janardhana Reddy Shri ;Ponnuswamy Shri E.

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether in a recent visit to India, the Secretary of State of USA, had expressed her country`s reservation about the proposed Indo-Iran Gas Pipeline Project; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (RAO INDERJIT SINGH)

(a) During her visit to India, Secretary of State Dr. Condoleeza Rice stated at a press conference on March 16, 2005 `I think our views concerning Iran are well-known by this time and we have communicated to the Indian Government our concerns about the gas pipeline cooperation between Iran and India`. The issue of the gas pipeline was not discussed at official talks during the visit of US Secretary of State.

(b) There are ongoing discussions between India, Pakistan and Iran on this matter. India`s energy requirements are growing rapidly. We have traditionally good relations with Iran. Government would take decisions on the gas pipeline based on India`s national interest.